

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, and the remarks that follow as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 have been amended, without prejudice. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the recitations in the claims is found throughout the specification, and particularly on page 8, lines 13-20 and page 11, lines 5-11.

The Examiner objected to the specification and specifically to proper antecedent basis for vectors A and S. The specification has been amended herein. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,987) in view of Sumita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,207). Applicants disagree.

For example, claim 1, as amended herein, recites in part, “A broadcasting system comprising...a plurality of reception apparatuses...wherein said user is permitted to activate or deactivate the filtering process at any time...” (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Ismail and Sumita relied upon by the Examiner do not teach, suggest or motivate a skilled artisan to practice at least the above-recited feature of claim 1.

Ismail and Sumita relate to information filtering processes. However, Ismail and Sumita do not disclose that the user is permitted to activate or deactivate the filtering process at any time, as instantly claimed. In the present invention, the user can decide whether or not filtering should be performed on the received digital content. This additional function allows for greater flexibility of the broadcasting system. Therefore, the instant claims are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons stated above.

For reasons similar to those described above, claim 10 is also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail and Sumita.

Claims 3 and 12 depend from one of claims 1 and 10 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail and Sumita be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. and Sumita et al. as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of Dunlop

(“The Effects of Accessing Non-matching Documents on Relevance Feedback”) and Aggarwal (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,295 B1). Applicants disagree.

Claims 2 and 11 depend from one of claims 1 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Dunlop and Aggarwal to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Ismail and Sumita. Therefore, claims 2 and 11 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail, Sumita, Dunlop and Aggarwal.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail, Sumita, Dunlop and Aggarwal be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4-6 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. and Sumita et al. as applied to claims 3 and 12, and further in view of Hawkins (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,561 A). Applicants disagree.

Claims 4-6 and 13-15 depend from one of claims 1 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Hawkins to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Ismail and Sumita. Therefore, claims 4-6 and 13-15 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail, Sumita and Hawkins.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-6 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail, Sumita and Hawkins be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. and Sumita et al. as applied to claims 3 and 12, and further in view of Eldering et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,457,010) and further in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,360). Applicants disagree.

Claims 7 and 16 depend from one of claims 1 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Eldering and Inoue to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Ismail and Sumita. Therefore, claims 7 and 16 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail, Sumita, Eldering and Inoue.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail, Sumita, Eldering and Inoue be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. and Sumita et al. as applied to claims 3 and 12, and further in view of Russel-Falla et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,664 B1). Applicants disagree.

Claims 8 and 17 depend from one of claims 1 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Russel-Falla to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Ismail and Sumita. Therefore, claims 8 and 17 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail, Sumita and Russel-Falla.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail, Sumita and Russel-Falla be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. and Sumita et al. as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of Eldering. Applicants disagree.

Claims 9 and 18 depend from one of claims 1 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Ismail and Sumita for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Eldering to overcome the above-identified

deficiencies of Ismail and Sumita. Therefore, claims 9 and 18 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ismail, Sumita and Eldering.

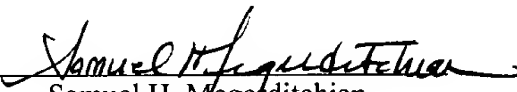
Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ismail, Sumita and Eldering be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited documents, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, is there a basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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